

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07
NRC-05 OES-07 DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 H-01
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /113 W
-----141908Z 065184 /43

R 141657Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4113
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17455

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, PARM, MNUC, IZ, IS, FR, US
SUBJECT: FRENCH RESEARCH REACTOR SALE TO IRAQ

REF: (76) PARIS 34343

1. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD NOTED IN AN INTERVIEW SUNDAY, JUNE 12, IN A BRIEF SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR ISSUES CONFRONTING FRANCE THAT FRANCE WAS PROCEEDING WITH THE SALE OF A RESEARCH REACTOR TO IRAQ. THE SALE WAS CONFIRMED BY QUAI OFFICIALS IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK DURING THE US/FRENCH BILATERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 7, PRIOR TO THE JUNE 8-9 SUMMIT MEETING OF EXPERTS ON NONPROLIFERATION. ON JUNE 7, QUAI OFFICIALS ALSO ADDED THAT STUDY WAS CONTINUING ON THE UTILIZATION OF LOWER ENRICHED URANIUM (APPROACHING 20 PERCENT), BUT THAT NO FIRM CONCLUSIONS HAD YET BEEN DRAWN.

2. ISRAELI EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE HAVE QUERIED EMBOFFS REGARDING US REACTION TO THE PROPOSED SALE. WE HAVE ADVISED THAT WE HAVE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THE FRENCH TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO UTILIZING
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A 20 PERCENT OR LESS ENRICHED URANIUM IN KEEPING WITH OUR SIMILAR EFFORTS IN SUCH REACTORS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ISRAELI EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR WAS OF THE VIEW THAT THIS DESIGN CHANGE, IF IN FACT IT DID OCCUR, WOULD BE SOMEWHAT HELPFUL. HOWEVER, ISRAELI EMBASSY INFORMATION IS THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE REACTOR HAS BEGUN AND THAT IT WILL TAKE A GOOD BIT

OF EFFORT TO CHANGE THE DESIGN TO UTILIZE THE LOWER ENRICHED URANIUM. THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF FUEL ELEMENTS THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT ANY ONE TIME AT THE IRAQ REACTOR AND THE POTENTIAL DANGER THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THREE OR FOUR CORE LOADINGS BEING PRESENT IN IRAQ AT THE SAME TIME.

3. WE ADVISED THE ISRAELI EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT WE WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS REACTOR SALE, PARTICULARLY ON THE MATTER OF THE DESIGN CHANGE TO USING LOWER ENRICHED URANIUM.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: SALES, PRESS CONFERENCES, NUCLEAR REACTORS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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